

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200..

Respectfully submitted,

  
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**MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE CHANGES TO THE SPECIFICATION**

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

*Paragraph beginning at page 1, line 16:*

However, since the PET-materials to be recycled or the articles consisting of PET, in particular PET-bottles, are mostly soiled and are washed and possibly previously comminuted, at which procedure a simultaneous soiling frequently cannot be avoided, in the most cases the material is discretely comminuted or milled, washed and dried. Such a pre-drying should be at least so efficient, that the moisture content does not exceed a value of 1.5 weight-% of the PET-material to be treated or to [by] be recycled.

*Paragraph beginning at page 5:*

In order to avoid that the vacuum applied to the extruder 8, in particular within the degassing-zones, acts back to the main processing apparatus 4, provisions are to be made that the compression within the extruder 8, or the tightening action of the material conveyed by the extruder are so great that any reaction of the vacuum to the main processing device 4 is avoided. The same holds for a reaction of the vacuum of the main processing apparatus 4 to the pre-processing apparatus 3. In this case, however, a reaction can be excluded by providing the sluice with suitable sluice sliding gates 15'. If the pre-processing apparatus [4] 3 is directly connected to the main processing apparatus [4] 3, the conveying screw must be vacuum-tight.